Pam. Misc.
1696

Association Dividends

in

Foreign Lands

Are They Worth While?

The Young Men's Christian Association Foreign Work Is:

¶ A service of good will to the world.
¶ An expression of altruism and brotherhood.
¶ A preventive of narrow-mindedness.
¶ An evidence of abundant life.
¶ A challenge to generous gifts.
¶ An incentive to prayer.
¶ An obligation of all.

Strengthening the Church

¶ In one year in China 1,828 decisions for the Christian Life were made through the influence of the Young Men's Christian Association. Of these 958 joined the Church. In the thirty city Associations, Bible study enrollment rose from 13,860 to 19,256 in a year.

¶ The Y. M. C. A. is engaged in one of the most delicate tasks in spiritual engineering—building bridges which shall join the hearts of different races.

GALEN M. FISHER.

The "Y" in the "Chicago of China" Serves the Laboring Man

¶ Last Sunday we dedicated our new industrial building, located about five miles from the Central Hankow building in one of the industrial centers. The building is planned after the type of the hut which was used for army work in France—in fact, a Chinese young man who served in the Y. M. C. A.

in France is in charge of this branch. It is located in the midst of a large industrial district within a mile of thirty-two factories which employ tens of thousands of men. The hearty reception given to us by both employers and workmen, leads us to feel that it is to be one of the most fruitful pieces of work that we have in hand.

Teaching Ten Thousand Boys to Play

¶ When the Canadian Physical Director entered Tientsin, China, he found among its 1,000,000 inhabitants, thousands of boys who were missing the joy and wholesome effects of play. Through the medium of the Provincial Board of Education, fifty drill instructors and teachers of the public schools were organized into a training class. They were given instruction in play and physical education. The games included basket-ball, volley-ball, and various races and group games. These fifty leaders then carried the good message to boys all over the city.

¶ Result: Over 10,000 Chinese school boys in Tientsin at wholesome play under expert leadership.

¶ This service has won the sympathy of the Board of Education and opened the way for the Association and the churches to reach these boys with a definite Christian message.

Gifts Come Unsolicited

¶ At least one very important result has come from "the exhibition." The advertising manager of one of the leading dailies in Mexico City was present, and his little son took part in the program. After the affair was over, this man asked Mr. Escobar what he needed most for the development of his "Indian Tribe" work, and he replied that we were in desperate need of about 250 uniforms. A few days ago we received a communication from one of the government departments saying that they had placed at our disposal these 250 uniforms, complete with coat, trousers, leggings, and hat. This represents an unsolicited gift of approximately 7,500 pesos, and it will give great impetus to the work in the boys department.

A Fifty Year Old Tonic

¶ The physical work of the Seoul Association is directed by committeemen who are actually doing things. Every member of the physical committee is in regular attendance at a gym class. The Chairman is a physician trained in the Severance Hospital, who though he has never been out of his country is a man

of large vision. Another member is a physician educated in America. Another member is a business man who not only has been the mainstay of one of the business men's classes, but the chief promoter of tournaments and athletic meets. A fourth member is a returned student from Tokyo, and the fifth, a foreign surgeon who has never missed a class. Although fifty years of age, he still plays good baseball, volley-ball, and basket-ball, and his presence in the gym is a tonic to all who come.

¶ In religious work the past year has seen encouraging results. An efficient religious work committee, with a new religious work secretary, have by means of the Sunday meetings and other religious efforts succeeded in securing over 300 decisions for the Christian life. Each young man making a decision was called upon in his own home and introduced to some church. About one-half of these decisions were by young men under the age of twenty.

Secretaries in India Enthusiastic

¶ My own work is honestly enthusiastic at the present time. Many are the handicaps, but I am able to make the best friends for our causes and to pitch our efforts on a higher basis than I had dreamed, before coming here. I think this effort along the community line is going to be fruitful to a degree that it will give us some guidance for our whole movement here. Can you imagine the traffic manager of a railway coming to your house as a local secretary, and spending an evening working on a program for the boys who are being recruited and who become apprentices for all the railway servants that shall serve a whole line? This was my pleasure last night, and many times this Winter.

Hard Times Help the "Y"

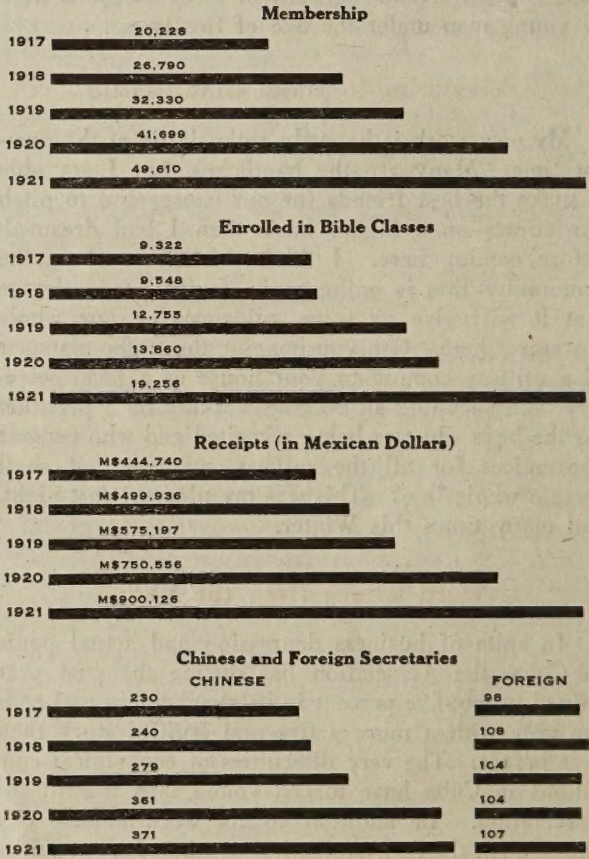
¶ In spite of business depression and actual panic in Cuba, the Association has during the past year gained twenty-five percent in its membership and ends the year with a more active and fruitful work than ever before. The very difficulties of economical conditions in Cuba have turned young men toward the Association. In addition to its work among city young men, the Association has continued its activities with the Cuban army, which have won high praise from both Cubans and foreigners. Its Marine Branch also has maintained its work for men of American and other merchant marine ships and has often proven itself a real friend in time of need.

How Native Leadership Put Soochow on the Map

¶ Prior to 1920 there was practically no Young Men's Christian Association in Soochow, a Chinese city of 500,000. Two American secretaries have given part time to the development of the Soochow work during the past two years.

¶ Result: The Chinese themselves raised $43,000 Mex. for land and a building; the building was opened last November; 1,864 members now enrolled; over $20,000 raised in first membership campaign. At present nine Chinese secretaries, led by a Chinese general secretary, are carrying on the work. There are no foreign secretaries.

These Lines on China Speak Volumes



FOREIGN WORK
OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
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